

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 00305 090725Z

13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NIC-01 SAJ-01 EB-11 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 /132 W

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R 090630Z JAN 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9199

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 305

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJECT: RED FLAG ATTACKS ON RIGHTISTS

REF: HONG KONG 229

SUMMARY. THE LATEST ISSUE OF RED FLAG DEVELOPS THE NASCENT ATTACK ON RIGHTISTS, BUT IN MODERATE TERMS, CAUTIONING CADRE TO SEPARATE "DIEHARDS" FROM THOSE WHO HAVE MERELY "TAKEN A WRONG VIEW." THERE IS A HINT THAT INTERFERENCE WITH ECONOMIC PRODUCTION WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. END SUMMARY.

1. AN ARTICLE IN THE JANUARY ISSUE OF RED FLAG DEVELOPS THE NASCENT ATTACK ON RIGHTISTS IN CHINA (RADIO BROADCAST JANUARY 6). ONE KEY PASSAGE STATES THAT ANY PERSON WHO "REFUSES TO TRANSFORM HIS WORLD OUTLOOK" IS "BOUND TO TRANSFORM THE WORLD" WITH HIS OWN "BOURGEOIS" OUTLOOK. THE PASSAGE SEEMS AIMED AT PERSONS IN AUTHORITY AND AT DEALING WITH PROBLEMS AT THE UPPER LEVELS.

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PAGE 02 HONG K 00305 090725Z

2. LEADERS ARE PRESUMABLY AMONG THOSE DESCRIBED ELSEWHERE IN THE ARTICLE AS "DIEHARDS" SUPPORTING "RIGHTIST OPPORTUNISM." THE ARTICLE POINTS OUT THAT THE PARTY'S FOUR MAJOR STRUGGLES "SINCE THE (1949) FOUNDING OF THE PRC" HAVE ALL BEEN AGAINST "REVISIONISM." PREVIOUSLY, PRC PROPAGANDA HAS LISTED TEN STRUGGLES--INCLUDING TWO BEFORE 1949 THAT WERE AGAINST "LEFT OPPORTUNISM." ABBREVIATING THE LIST SO THAT IT COVERS ONLY RIGHTIST OPPONENTS HAS THE EFFECT OF DISCOURAGING EFFORTS TO FIND TARGETS ON THE LEFT.

3. BUT RED FLAG'S ATTACK ON RIGHTISM IS QUALIFIED IN A MANNER WHICH SUGGESTS ACCOMMODATION OF MODERATE VIEWS. THE ARTICLE STRESSES THAT "OPENLY HOSTILE" OPPONENTS OF CULTURAL REVOLUTION GAINS "HAVE TO BE DISTINGUISHED" FROM A (PRESUMABLY) MUCH LARGER GROUP WHO HAVE "TAKEN A WRONG VIEW OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION." THOSE IN THE LATTER GROUP ARE SEPARATELY CAUTIONED TO "EXAMINE" THEMSELVES AND "RAPIDLY CHANGE" THEIR STAND.

4. GOING ON, THE ARTICLE CALLS ATTACKS ON CONFUCIUS AN "ASPECT" OF THE INTENSIFIED CAMPAIGN TO CRITICIZE LIN PIAO. THIS DESCRIPTION KEEPS ANTI-CONFUCIANISM WITHIN AN ANTI-RIGHTIST CONTEXT, AND AWAY FROM POSSIBLE TARGETS AMONG THE MODERATES WHO TOOK PART IN THE OVERTHROW OF LIN.

5. BURIED IN THE ARTICLE ARE HINTS THAT THE ECONOMY SHOULD NOT BE TOUCHED BY ISSUES RAISED IN THE PRESENT CAMPAIGN. THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION IS PRAISED FOR HAVING ALTERED REVISIONISM'S "PERNICIOUS INFLUENCE...IN THE REALM OF THE ECONOMY" THROUGH REFORM OF PREVIOUSLY-EXISTING "UNREASONABLE RULES AND REGULATIONS." BY STRESSING A PRAGMATIC GAIN AND SKIRTING IDEOLOGICAL CULTURAL REVOLUTION VIRTUOSITIES LIKE "ELIMINATING CAPITALIST INFLUENCES," THE PASSAGE PLACES ECONOMIC DISCUSSION WITHIN THE PERFORMANCE-

ORIENTED TERMS THAT MODERATES STRONGLY FAVOR.

6. A BIT LATER IN THE ARTICLE, LIN PIAO IS SCORED FOR HAVING

"PREVENTED THE PEOPLE...FROM CARRYING OUT CONSTRUCTION ALONG THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 HONG K 00305 090725Z

SOCIALIST ROAD." THE CONNECTION TO LIN IMPLIES THAT INTERFERENCE WITH PRODUCTION COULD BECOME A "REVISIONIST" CRIME, WHETHER OR NOT THE IDEOLOGICAL MOTIVATION FOR THE DISRUPTION COMES FROM THE RIGHT.
OSBORN

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